(NABARD), a number of steps have already been taken by them to impart greater freedom to co-operative institutions in their lending activities. These include, *inter-alia,* relaxations in the relevant provisions under Credit Authorisation Scheme (CAS) in terms of revisions in the specified cut off points for grant of advances to non-credit cooperative societies and working captial support to co-operative sugar factories; widening the scope of lending activities under the CAS; opening up investment avenues for profitable deployment of resources and relaxation in norms for financing individual borrowers.

NABARD has also periodically been taking up with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for larger allocation of funds to co* operative banks under the consortium arrangement's for funding the proeurement operations of Food Corporation of India (FCI), Jute Corporation of India (JO), etc,

The above measures together with a deregulated interest rate structure, have significantly contributed towards creating a liberalised regime for a more flexible and profitable deployment of resources of co-operative institutions, higher efficiency in credit decision making and greater accountablity for such decisions. The mechanism of preparation of Development Action Plans (DAPs) and tri-partite Memoranda of Understandings (MOUs) entered into between NABARD, State co-operative Banks and District Central co-operative Banks and district Central Co-operative Banks, is expected to further strengthen the co-operative credit structure.

Promotion of SSI Sector by SIDBI is Bihar

4313. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role played by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in the promotion of SSI Sector in Bihar;

(b) how many SSI Units were established/revived with theloan provided by SIDBI in the State during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether SIDBI proposes to increase its activities in the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been set up to function as the principal financial institution for promotion, financing and development of industries in the small scale sector and to co-ordinate the functions of institutions engaged in similar activities. SIDBI is performing this role all over the country including Bihar. All the schemes under its various direct and indirect assistance programmes are in operation in the state of Bihar.

(b) As per information provided by SIDBI, assistance sanctioned (including assistance for potentially viable sick units) and disbursements made by SIDBI in the State of Bihar during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is given below:

(Rs. crores)

Year	No.	Sanctions	Disburse -ment
1993-94	272	16.45	9.34
1994-95	83	11.93	17.22
1995-96	1122	57.90	51.95

Besides above assistance, under promotional and development schemes, SIDBI has sanctioned Rs. 59.5 lakhs to six voluntary organisations having total membership of 3794 women for onlending to the rural poor under micro credit scheme. SIDBI has also assisted six voluntary organisations for setting up training cum production centres on Madhubani painting, Garments, Tiles manufacturing, etc. Rural industries programme in Bihar has been

implemented in two districts through Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Bihar. 20 programmes for skill and technology upgradation have also been conducted with SIDBI's support in Bihar.

(c) As part of its andeavour to serve the small scale industrial sector better, SIDBI has opened a second branch office in Bihar at Jamshedour, the other being in Patna. SIDBI has also reported that it would extend financial support to all the credit worthy proposals emanating from the State of Bihar.

(d) Does not arise.

Developament Package for Jammu and Kashmir

4314. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have offered a package for economic and social deveopment of Jammu and Kashmir; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is any special scheme to provide incentives to industrialists to attract them to set up industrial units in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to accelerate the development process in Jammu & Kashmir, Prime Minister has announced a package in both Houses of Parliament on 23.7.96 and 2.8.96 to take up some important projects and also to complete on going projects on top priority. Some of these projects are:

Projects

(i) Construction of 290 Kms. Railway Line from Udhampur to Baramulla as a national projects.

(ii) Construction of Mughal Road as a dependable alternative link between Jammu & Kashmir; and

(iii) Completion of Dulhasti and Uri Hydro Projects in the State to provide much needed relief to the power starved state.

In addition, the following measures are taken to revive economic activities in the State:—

Debt relief to small businesses affected by militancy

With a view to provide immediate succour and relief to the people engaged in trades like tourism, small scale industries, transport and hotel etc. who were worst affected due to militancy during the last 6 to 7 years, the Government proposes to write off the outstanding loans and interest of all borrowers whose original borrowing is less than or upto Rs. 50,000/- so as to enable them to seek fresh loans from banking sector to restart their businesses. For borrowers above Rs. 50,000 an Inter-Ministrerial Committee has been constituted to look into the question.

Special Central Plan Assistance to J&K state for 1996-97

Special Central Plan assistance of Rs. 663 crores and Special Plan Loan of Rs. 100 crore was provided in 1996-97 so as to bridge the gap on non-plan side so that the entire plan outlay could be utilised for development schemes. The Annual Plan for the State was further enhanced to Rs. 1250 crores which has been fully funded by the Central Government.

Infrastructural development for tourism in Leh district

An Amount of Rs. 2.40 crores is being allocated for setting up of Convention/ Conference Centre in Leh to give further fillip to tourism in the area.

Development of airport at Kargil

High priority is being given' to the development of Kargil Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 crores. In the meanwhile, the Government have